

Present: Michelle , Sue Philips, Robin Midgely, Geoff Beilby, Kate Rayner (chair), Steve Page, Jon Bushell, Kevin Wilson, Cheryl Wilson (minute taker in Liz's absence), Alwena Gentle, Andrew Gentle.

Apologies: Liz Bushell, Fred Mathieu, Paul Harry Barron

No agenda set by chair as this was Kate's first meeting as chair, so asked if the discussion could be organic.

1: update from Les Herbiers Twinning Committee regarding plans being made in France for music exchange event:

Les Herbiers Twinning have suggested the following programme:

Wednesday: arrival, introduction to hosts and everyone settle in to their accommodation with hosts.

Thursday: full day of rehearsal. Evening meals with hosts in their homes.

Friday: free morning in hosts homes including lunch. Rehearsals to start after lunch. Concert at 7pm-8.45pm. Buffet meal for all from 9pm with some musicians who didn't get chance to play during concert, to play during meal. 20th anniversary to be recognised by Les Herbiers Twinning during meal.

Saturday: depart.

Discussion raised a number of questions/responses which Kate agreed to take up with Chair of Les Herbiers Twinning and feed back at next meeting.

Questions/responses raised:

Has Bruno been party to the above planning? What is his view? Bruno has written to Sue saying he is due to meet with Les Herbiers Twinning before Christmas.

Suggested programme for Thursday: agreed that full day of rehearsal is important. Evening with host families is appropriate.

Friday: The group felt the model set when the event took place in Wales was successful and would appreciate this being replicated in France.

- The musical directors on the group stressed it was critical that musicians had the full morning to rehearse.
- The musicians will then need to have lunch and would benefit greatly by enjoying an organised fun activity. This would give everyone a much needed break from rehearsals and any nerves in anticipation of the concert and in effect provide a sense of togetherness and camaraderie across all the age groups.
- The music directors would then organise a dress rehearsal between 4-6pm.
- The children/young people will all need an early tea to keep them going before the buffet at 9pm.
- The music directors were concerned about the allocated 1 hour 45 minutes and this being too short.

Letter from Bruno outlined suggested pieces of music which the music directors will discuss and liaise with Bruno about.

Newtown Community Choir: Two Committee members (Steve & Alwena) are members of this choir. Steve is in discussions with choir leader about involvement in the event. Possibly 12 attending. Michelle confirmed that there would be a few non musicians amongst the young people attending who sing and could join in with the choir. Sue confirmed she would ask Bruno about a similar choir in Les Herbiers who would be happy to sing with our choir.

2. Update on numbers:

23 to date, but this may increase.

Within the 23 young people there is one 9 year old with parent accompanying and one 18 year old. The remaining 21 range from 11 years to 17 years.

16 adults attending, five of which are making their own way to Les Herbiers. All 16 require hosting.

Michelle will create a spreadsheet for Kate to share with Chair of Les Herbiers Twinning, so that hosting matching can begin.

Music directors asked that Kate ask that young people be hosted with musicians they hosted in Wales and where no links have been made, matching to take into account age and musical instruments.

Music directors asked that parents are hosted by different families to those hosting their child. Unless the parent or child insists otherwise. Michelle and Sue to manage this process and Michelle to include on spreadsheet.

Michelle has been using their internal application forms and agreed with Andrew that she will check that her forms cover the same information included on Newtown Twinning application forms.

Music directors would need the deadline for musician related applicants to be 29th November. Agreed.

Newtown Collage participation. As yet this is fluid and unclear. Kevin to liaise with Newton Brown, Enterprise Officer.

### 3. Publicity:

The event is on the website but otherwise no marketing has taken place in the town as to date too soon.

Kevin and Andrew to create flyer.

Flyer to be emailed to members on data base & paper flyers distributed in shops in town.

Jon to highlight suggested action for Liz to revisit media advertising.

Deadline for non musician applications set as 15th January 2020.

Date of next meeting: 14th January@ 6.45pm at The Eli.

Kevin to chair next meeting as Kate unavailable.